

## Marlborough Borough

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR 1945

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my 26th Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Administration of your district.

This report is brief and is according to instructions received from the Ministry of Health in their circular 28/46 dated Feb. 11th, 1946.

I have the honour to remain

Your obedient servant,

A. H. WILSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

Victoria Road, Salisbury.

## VITAL STATISTICS

Population—Census 1931 : 3,492

Population—Estimated Mid. 1945—4,655

Area, 1,496 Acres

Rateable Value : £37,949

Sum represented by Penny Rate : £154 6 5

Number of Inhabited Houses as shown by Rate Books end of 1945 : 1310

Births, 1945	Male.	Female.	Total.
Live	42	37	79 (11 Illegitimate)
Still	0	1	1

Birth Rate, 1945. England and Wales

Live	14.6	Live	16.1
Still	0.2	Still	0.46

Birth Rate Average last 10 years 13.3  
England and Wales „ „ 10 „ 15.4

Deaths : Males 33. Females 29. Total 62.

Death Rate 13.3 Average last 10 years 11.3  
England and Wales 11.4 „ „ 10 years 12.2

Number of deaths of infants under one year of age : Males 5  
Females 1. Total 6 (3 illegitimate)

Infantile Morality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births) 75.9

England and Wales 46.0

Infantile Mortality Average last 10 years 51.3

England and Wales „ „ 10 years 52.0

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease	Total Cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total death
Scarlet Fever	9	9	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0
Pneumonia	5 (1 Mil)	2 (1 Mil)	1
Erysipelas	9	5	0
Measles	24	0	0
Dysentry(Sonne)	2	2	1

**Scarlet Fever.** Nine cases were notified and all admitted to Hospital; four of these arose at the end of April and the beginning of May and three during August, at no time did the disease become epidemic.

**Diphtheria.** Once again no case was notified.

**Pneumonia.** Only five cases were notified and of these one was a soldier and the one which died was a small child in an institution and was an outward transferable death.

**Erysipelas.** Nine cases were notified, the same as last year five of them were treated in Hospital and all recovered.

**Measles.** Only 24 cases were notified and these were nearly all in the first half of the year and no death occurred.

**Dysentry (Sonne).** Two cases of this disease were notified and both were in an institution and one of them died but was considered an outward transferable death. I am not sure that this really gives a very exact state of affairs because this disease is often of a very mild type and only gets notified when a bacteriological examination is made.

**Whooping Cough.** No case was notified during the whole year.

**Tuberculosis.** Only three cases were notified to me the details being as follows:—

One Male pulmonary age 51.

Two non-Pulmonary viz. one female age 31 and one male age 11.

*The deaths were as follows:—*

One Male Pulmonary age 73

One Female Pulmonary age 49

One Female Non-Pulmonary age 31

The latter was not notified before death and was discovered P.M.

**Immunisation against Diphtheria.** This Campaign continues and during the Year under consideration I have held clinics in the Borough and in addition the Medical Practitioners have continued immunising the Children as before.

Under both arrangements 80 children under five years and 7 over five were immunised, making a total of 307 under five and 550 over five since the commencement of the campaign.

### **Housing.**

Like most other places the Housing situation in the Borough has been causing the Council considerable trouble owing to overcrowding and lack of facilities for getting repairs done and so only urgent matters have been dealt with.

### **Permanent Houses.**

Various delays and difficulties have occurred in the development of the London Road site, first, on account of difficulty in obtaining the necessary land for an access road and then on account of the Swindon Group being unable to proceed with the road and sewer works on the basis of the original tender.

New tenders have been negotiated and are at present awaiting sanction of the Minister of Health.

A scheme for the erection of 28, 3 bedroom houses on this site is now out to tender.

### **Temporary Houses.**

The erection of these houses has turned out to be a long and painful process. Only two houses have been completed and occupied (June, 1946). The completion of the remaining 18 is held up pending the delivery of plumbing units.

### **Water Supply.**

There has been no alteration in the supply to the Town.

All the houses in the Borough are now connected to the mains apart from 8 houses at Manton supplied from 3 stand pipes.

A supply is provided to a Military Camp at Salisbury Hill. This supply is taken from the reservoir through a meter and pumped by the Military to serve several units encamped in the neighbourhood.

A metered supply is provided also to the Military Hospital Camp on the common.

This water is efficiently chlorinated and samples taken during the year all proved to be of good quality and free from any evidence whatever of harmful pollution.

## **Drainage and Sewerage.**

The Sewerage Works continue to function satisfactorily since reconstruction and consistently produce a good effluent.

The manufacture of Straw Sludge Compost has been continued during the year and is becoming increasingly popular amongst Allotment Holders and others.

## **Rivers and Streams.**

The section of the river Kennet for which the Council is responsible was thoroughly cleaned out and weeded during the year, and no nuisance was caused.

## **Public Cleansing.**

House refuse was collected once weekly by motor vehicle and disposed of by controlled tipping.

Paper, metal, bones and other salvageable materials were collected and disposed of in accordance with the requirements of the Government Scheme.

## **Rats and Mice Destruction.**

The destruction of rats and mice within the Borough has been carried out by the Operator appointed in conjunction with the Rural District Councils' of Pewsey and Marlborough and Ramsbury.

42 Premises were disinfested and good results obtained.

## **Swimming Bath.**

Water is pumped from the river into the bath and is frequently changed, in addition the water is chlorinated by means of the addition of "Chloros" and the amount of free Chlorine tested daily by means of the Orthotolodine Test.

## **Milk Supply.**

The milk supply of the Town remains satisfactory.

Three of the five producers have "Special Designation" licences and samples were taken regularly by the County Council Inspectors to see that the required standard was maintained.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

It will be noted that the figures under the following table are very much down on previous years; this is due to the fact that Mr. Paine the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector was without any assistance for nine months as his assistant had obtained the Senior post with the Marlborough and Ramsbury R.D. and owing to other more important and pressing work he was unable to do any routine Sanitary Inspections.

The Meat inspection was done by Mr. Hudson by arrangement with the Rural District from the time he left the Borough until a new assistant was appointed.

	No. of Inspections 1	No. of Defects. 2	Informal Notices. 3	Statutory Notices. 4	Remedied by 3. 5	Remedied by 4. 6	Remedied after Verbal Instructions only. 7
Nuisances ...	16	14	12	2	9	2	3
Slaughter-houses ...	44	3	—	—	—	—	3
Knackers' Yards ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Places where food is prepared ...	6	2	—	—	—	—	2
Cowsheds ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dairies and Milkstores	12	4	3	—	3	—	1
Butcher's Shops ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bakehouses	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Factory Inspection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Totals</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>

## TOTAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

Causes of Death.	M.	F.	Causes of Death	M.	F.
All Causes	33	29	Appendicitis		
Typhoid and Paratyphoid			Other digest. diseases	1	1
Cerebrospinal Fever			Nephritis	1	2
Scarlet Fever			Puerp. and postabort. sepsis		
Whooping Cough			Other maternal causes		
Diphtheria			Premature birth		1
Tuberc. of Respir. syst.	1	1	Cong. malf. birth. inj. Inf. dis.	3	
Other form of Tuberc.		1	Suicide		
Syphilitic Diseases	1		Road Traffic Act		
Influenza			Other violent causes	1	
Measles			All other causes	2	4
Ac. Polio-myelitis and Enceph.			Deaths of Infants under 1 year—		
Ac. Inf. Enceph			Total	5	1
Cancer of b. cav; and			Legitimate	2	1
oesoph (M.)			Illegitimate	3	
uterus (F.)			Live Births		
Cancer of stomach and			Total	42	37
duodenum	1	2	Legitimate	33	35
Cancer of breast			Illegitimate	9	2
Cancer of all other sites	2		Stillbirths		
Diabetes		1	Total		1
Intra. cran. vasc. lesions		4	Legitimate		1
Heart disease	6	7	Illegitimate		
Other dis. of circ. syst.		4	Population		4,655
Bronchitis	3				
Pneumonia					
Other Resp. diseases		1			
Ulcer of stomach & duodenum					
Diarrhœa under two years	1				



